## IN THE CLAIMS

## Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method of configuring a directory server comprising a plurality of entries, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a CoS scheme, wherein the CoS scheme comprises

a CoS definition entry, which includes a CoS specifier and a list of attributes, whereby a first target entry within scope of the CoS scheme obtains values for attributes provided in the CoS Definition entry by using an attribute with a distinguishing name (DN) value contained within the first target entry.

- 2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the DN points to a second target entry which is a valid entry.
- 3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the DN points to a second target entry which is a valid entry and the first target entry uses the second target entry as a template.
- 4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the value of the CoS specifier in the CoS Definition entry appears in a target entry as a first attribute type.
- 5. (Original) A method of providing an attribute-value pair stored in a directory system and shared by a plurality of target entries in the directory system, the method comprising the steps of:

Serial No. 09/867,594

Examiner: Lu, Kuen S.

Art Unit 2177 SUN-P5836NP.US creating an indirect CoS scheme;

receiving a request for an attribute-value pair associated with a first target entry;

searching in a list of attribute-value pairs which are associated with template entries that are in turn associated with CoS Definition entries for instances of attribute-value pairs that match the requested attribute type, said searching step resulting in a matched list of attribute-value pairs;

applying at least one of a set of constraints to the matched list of attributevalue pairs; and

returning the attribute-value pair that satisfied the applied constraint(s).

- 6. (Original) The method as in claim 5, wherein the set of constraints includes CoS scope.
- 7. (Original) The method as in Claim 5, wherein the set of constraints includes determining if a CoS specifier associated with the matched attribute-value pair matches a valid second target entry.
- 8. (Original) The method as in claim 7, wherein the matched second target entry contains an attribute provided by the indirect CoS scheme.
- 9. (Original) An apparatus comprising:a directory server comprising:

Serial No. 09/867,594

Examiner: Lu, Kuen S.

Art Unit 2177 SUN-P5836NP.US a component to configure and store a plurality of target entries; and

a component to create a CoS scheme, wherein the CoS scheme

comprises

a CoS definition entry, which includes a CoS specifier and a list

of attributes, whereby a first target entry within scope of the CoS scheme obtains

values for attributes provided in the CoS Definition entry by using an attribute with a

distinguishing name (DN) value contained within the first target entry.

10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the DN points to a second target

entry which is a valid entry.

11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the DN points to a second target

entry which is a valid entry and the first target entry uses the second target entry as

a template.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the value of the CoS specifier in

the CoS Definition entry appears in a target entry as a first attribute type.

13. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

a directory server comprising:

a component configured to store a plurality of target entries;

Serial No. 09/867,594

Examiner: Lu, Kuen S.

Art Unit 2177 SUN-P5836NP.US

-4-

a component adapted to configure an attribute-value pair that could be shared by at least a subset of the plurality of target entries using an indirect CoS scheme;

a component configured to receive a request for an attribute-value pair associated with a first target entry;

a component configured to search in a list of attribute-value pairs which are associated with template entries that are in turn associated with CoS Definition entries for instances of attribute-value pairs that match the requested attribute type, said searching step resulting in a matched list of attribute-value pairs; and

a component configured to apply at least one set of constraints to the matched list of attribute-value pairs to result in a selected attribute-value pair; and a component configured to return the selected attribute-value pair.

- 14. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus</u> method as in claim 13, wherein the set of constraints includes determining if a CoS specifier associated with the matched attribute-value pair matches a valid second target entry.
- 15. (Currently Amended) The <u>apparatus</u> method as in claim 13, wherein the matched second target entry contains an attribute provided by the indirect CoS scheme.
- 16. (Cancelled)

Serial No. 09/867,594

Examiner: Lu, Kuen S.

Art Unit 2177 SUN-P5836NP.US

-5-